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Letter dated 8 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 August 1994 addressed to you by Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 August 1994 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to respond to the recent barrage of false and malicious accusations levelled against us by the Greek Cypriot usurper regime in southern Cyprus, which came in the form of three successive letters addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative on 20, 21 and 27 July 1994 respectively (A/48/971-S/1994/858, A/48/972-S/1994/859 and A/48/975-S/1994/883).

It is indeed regrettable that, at a time when humanity is witnessing major political crises and human tragedies of immense proportions demanding urgent attention, the Greek Cypriot side should waste the scarce resources of the United Nations on such outmoded and shameful propaganda, which clearly belongs to the dustbin of diplomacy. I will, therefore, limit my response to the main subjects and thrust of each letter, refraining from dealing with every unfounded allegation they contain so as not to attribute to them the attention they clearly do not deserve.

1. With regard to the first letter under reference, I wish to reiterate that the airspace over northern Cyprus is under the complete control, sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriot occupiers of the seat of Government have no right to say who will use this airspace and how, with the full knowledge and consent of the State. Complaints such as those contained in the said letter are, therefore, designed purely for propaganda purposes and so as to divert attention from the fact that the Greek Cypriots continue to militarize southern Cyprus at an alarming rate, with an increased military spending of about $2 million per day.

The Greek Cypriot side pretends to forget the fact that it is their past aggressive behaviour and continuing hostile posture that have created and consolidated the present situation and obliged the Turkish Cypriots to seek the assistance and protection of Turkey, under the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960 and in self-defence. The Greek Cypriot leadership should first of all bear in mind this fundamental United Nations principle before paying lip service to the Charter of the United Nations, as if it were designed to allow for the subjugation, enslavement or eradication of peoples by force. This is precisely what the Greek Cypriots, with the full participation of Greece, tried to achieve in Cyprus between 1963 and 1974, and overwhelming evidence indicates that this continues to be their ultimate aim. Hence the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece, the bolstering of the so-called "National Guard" with the planned addition of 5,000 new personnel to its ranks and the doubling of the military expenditure in the south, with public statements pouring out from the Greek Cypriot leadership that their aim is to capture Girne, Güzelyurt and Karpaz, together with the rest of northern Cyprus.

In the face of this aggressive and hostile posture, Turkey's protective and deterrent role is all the more necessary and any activity connected with it in our territory or airspace is of no concern of the Greek Cypriot side.

2. The above position also applies to the town of Varosha, which is under the full control and jurisdiction of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and which is one of the subjects of complaint in the second letter from Mr. Shambos. In any event, as also stated by your Deputy Special Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, to the Greek Cypriot authorities (see the Greek Cypriot daily newspaper Eleftherotipia dated 21 July 1994), the people concerned did not enter the fenced area of Varosha.

3. The peaceful demonstration held by the Turkish Cypriots at the Okullar quarter of the Turkish Cypriot sector of Nicosia was in response to the continued exploitation of the missing persons issue by the Greek Cypriot side and the general campaign of propaganda being carried out against us, an example of which was the demonstration held by the Greek Cypriots in the Ayios Kassianos quarter of the Greek sector of Nicosia, and reflected our people's frustration and indignation at such exploitation and incessant propaganda. Many of the participants were themselves relatives of Turkish Cypriots missing since 1963 or 1974, who are well recorded in the Secretary-General's relevant reports (for example, S/5950 of 10 September 1964, S/6102 of 21 December 1964, S/6228 of 11 March 1965, S/7350 of 10 June 1966 and S/24050 of 31 May 1992), but apparently the Greek Cypriot side does not consider these unfortunate people as human beings worthy of mention, as is apparent from the Greek Cypriot representative's said letter. To call the peaceful Turkish Cypriot demonstrators "violent" on the grounds that they played "loud music" and used "speakers" and "slogans" is either not knowing the meaning of the word "violent" or being unable to tolerate even the presence of the Turkish Cypriots as a living and breathing community. Such is the extent of the anti-Turkish fanaticism currently prevailing on the Greek Cypriot side.

4. It is typical of the Greek Cypriot side to engage in rhetoric and activity totally opposed to the concept of confidence-building or an overall solution in the island, and then to try to shift the blame for any deadlock resulting from it onto the Turkish Cypriot side. This pattern of behaviour cannot be any more true than in the case of the recent decision of the European Court of Justice which, at the instigation of the Greek Cypriot side, has effectively put a ban on Turkish Cypriot exports to the European Union member countries, and in so doing, has annulled any benefits that the Turkish Cypriot side would draw from the possible implementation of the confidence-building package.

While the Turkish Cypriot side and, statedly, the international community are still trying to cope with the damaging effects of this ill-conceived behaviour of the Greek Cypriot side on the confidence-building process, the latter has now had the audacity to complain about certain statements by President Rauf Denktaş, the essence of which has been described by the President himself as the only effective "antidote" to the Greek Cypriot side's efforts to bring about the total isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people and our ultimate ruination. The Greek Cypriot side should be well aware that Turkey is the only direction in which we can proceed for our very survival and integrity in the face of the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front's hostile campaign aimed at cutting off our remaining links with the outside world.

5. Before commenting on the Turkish Cypriot side's statements, the Greek Cypriot side must first of all account for the following extract from an incredible statement of their own leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, which was made on 19 June 1994 at a ceremony commemorating a dead member of EOKA (acronym for the Greek Cypriot terrorist organization founded by Grivas and dedicated to the annexation of Cyprus to Greece). The statement was reported in the Greek Cypriot press on 20 June 1994.

> "I want you to know that, at this juncture, consultations are under way at United Nations Headquarters regarding the resolution to be adopted by the Security Council on the Cyprus issue. But in Cyprus there is already the decision taken by a president named Glafcos Clerides. A Clerides who had been given the codename 'Hiperides' by General Grivas. Henceforth, the future course of the Cyprus issue will be decided here in Cyprus. We will not bow to pressures from the Americans and the British. We will continue our struggle, in trenches and our head-up, until the final victory of Cyprus Hellenism."

When the leader of a community defiantly and boastfully declares his prominent role in a terrorist organization whose hands are tainted with the blood of innocent Turkish Cypriots and others and proclaims it to be the basis and source of inspiration of his present policy, prospects for confidence-building and an overall solution in the island are dim indeed. We therefore leave it to the better judgement of the Member States of the United Nations as to who lacks the political will to settle the Cyprus issue.

Chauvinistic and intransigent statements of this nature abound on the record of the Greek Cypriot leadership, but the examples hardly need to be increased since Mr. Clerides has publicly vowed not to go forward with the confidence-building process, even threatening to resign if forced to do so. In fact, the lack of political will on the part of the Greek Cypriot side is also evident from the above-mentioned letter from Mr. Shambos, in which, except for a passing reference to confidence-building measures, this subject is carefully avoided, and persistent references are made, both in that letter and his third one under reference, to "the overall issue". This proves right our previously expressed concerns and warnings that the Greek Cypriot side was bent on escaping from the confidence-building process from the beginning, on the pretext of dealing with "substantive issues".

By insisting on "substantive issues", the Greek Cypriot side is in fact aiming to drag the issue into another impasse since, as you had also rightly concluded in your previous reports to the Security Council (such as S/24830 of 19 November 1992 and S/26026 of 1 July 1993) before embarking on the confidence-building process, the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides in Cyprus is the main cause of lack of progress towards an overall solution. This continuing to be the case, and a new and an immense obstacle having been placed before the confidence-building process by the Greek Cypriot side through the recent decision of the European Court of Justice, the motive behind the Greek Cypriot side's insistence on a prior discussion of substantive issues becomes crystal clear. By attempting to kill the confidence-building process, thereby blocking the road that could lead to an overall solution, the Greek Cypriot side is in fact demonstrating its total lack of political will to settle the Cyprus

issue as a whole. As my Government has repeatedly stated, the way to go about achieving progress is first of all the removal of the obstacle put before the confidence-building process by the said unfortunate decision of the European Court of Justice.

6. The main subject of the third letter of Mr. Shambos is also the exploitation of certain public statements by President Rauf Denktaş. The said letter, like the previous two, is replete with terminology which could only be the product of an obsessively anti-Turkish mentality. The said letter is a concrete testimony to the abuse of a de facto title unjustly accorded to the Greek Cypriot side by the international community, either for political expediency or convenience, against its neighbours and former partners, the Turkish Cypriots.

The tone and content of that letter, therefore, only demonstrate how justified the Turkish Cypriot side is in defending its political equality, right of security through Turkey's effective guarantee, and sovereignty within the framework of a possible negotiated solution. The Greek Cypriot usurpers of power must realize that the relentless abuse of their de facto title will not make them the masters of the whole island or that of the Turkish Cypriots. They should also realize that the crisis of confidence between the two peoples of the island continues to grow with every escalation of hostile rhetoric and activity, and chances for an overall solution unfortunately become more remote.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus